

Donor Partner Group Innovation and Technology (DPG IT) Secretariat

1. Background on the DPG IT

DPG Innovation and Technology was formally created as a part of the agreed dialogue structure between the Government of Tanzania and development partners in October 2008. The first meeting was held in June 2009. The group, originally chaired by UNESCO, is now co-chaired by the UK and the World Bank. The group currently includes as active members Sweden, MCC-PEPFAR, Finland, the United Kingdom, UNESCO, Deloitte, and the World Bank. The group is open to participation by any interested development partner agencies.

In accordance with the agreed dialogue structure, the group serves as the coordinating mechanism on the development partner side for the joint sector working group with the Government. On the Government side the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology has delegated coordination authority to the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH).

Development partners (DPs) recognize the critical role played by innovation and technology in spurring a healthy and competitive economy. Innovative economies are more productive and grow faster. Innovation has long been recognized as an important driver of economic growth (Romer 1990, Grossman and Helpman 1994, Bloom and Van Reenen 2002, Bosworth and Collins 2003). Empirical research and surveys of business activities show that innovation leads to new products and services, better quality, and lower prices. Economies that have consistently high levels of innovation also tend to have high levels of growth. Businesses that have a strong track record of successful innovation also tend to enjoy significant competitive advantages and increasing firm value. Recognizing these relationships, political leaders, business leaders, and economists have become intensely interested in understanding how to foster innovation and how to exploit innovation in the creation of economic growth.

DPs are committed to supporting implementation of the Government's key policy initiatives in this area, as well as programmes that work directly with the private sector, business membership organisations and other non-state actors to promote innovation and technology, boost competitiveness, support innovation and research in business; provide incentives for companies to invest in high-value business activities; create more open and integrated innovation ecosystems; and remove barriers to innovation. In order to achieve this, the DPs are supporting initiatives to e.g. strengthen partnerships between academia, government and the private sector, private sector innovation capacity, the national ICT infrastructure, Government private sector innovation and technology support and facilitation mechanisms and the integration of Tanzania's innovation ecosystem in the global system.

A functioning national innovation system is also highly dependent on a truly enabling business environment (rule of law, access to finance, barriers to trade, functioning energy and transportation infrastructure etc.) and an education system that produces the right type of human capital. These aspects are dealt with under DPG PSD and Trade and DPG Education respectively. DPG IT will however deal with issues in both areas that are clearly related to innovation, like e.g. funding of innovation and technology oriented enterprises and the interaction between the private sector and academia. The scope of work coincides with the mandate of MoEST.

The primary aims of the DPG are to strengthen the effectiveness of development assistance through measures to:

- a) **Improve the coordination of Development Partner programmes** that support Innovation and technology in Tanzania (including closer collaboration in the planning and design of new projects to capture synergies).
- b) **Share lessons learnt from studies, reviews and impact assessments conducted** in Tanzania and, where relevant, further afield.
- c) **Conduct analytical work**, when necessary jointly, to inform the development of the national innovation system and national policy development.
- d) **Act as a reliable dialogue partner to Government**, where appropriate developing a coherent Development Partner view on critical issues arising in innovation and technology.
- e) **Improve the alignment of Development Partner strategies and programmes with those of Government of Tanzania so as to better support achievement of National Development strategies.**
- f) **Monitor the implementation and evaluate the impact of GoT programmes whose goals are to support innovation and boost use of technology in Tanzania** through participation in joint reviews, institutional/field visits, and dialogue with government partners, civil society and the private sector.

2. Role and Specific Tasks of the DPG IT Secretariat.

The secretariat will provide support to the DPG IT development partner group as a whole. It will not represent the interests or views of any specific DP member. Its overriding objective will be to ensure the smooth flow of information between DPG members and between the DPG IT and the Government of Tanzania: principally but not exclusively MoEST, Costech and other relevant Ministries Departments and Agencies.

Under the guidance of the Co-chairs of DPG IT, the Secretariat will fulfil the following tasks:

- Call periodic DPG meetings, prepare agendas, produce and circulate minutes, track action points agreed.
- Circulate key documents/issues for discussion to DPG members, on the advice of the co-chairs.
- Solicit DP responses and comments on issues, papers, etc. and circulate consolidated summaries to members.
- Commission analytical studies.
- Maintain a detailed calendar of events to ensure awareness of upcoming activities, events, reviews.
- Regularly update the DPG IT website/ weblink.
- Take minutes at joint GoT/DP meetings and circulate these to DPG members, once agreed with GoT counterparts.
- Liaise with the GoT (Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST) and other relevant MDAs) and others as appropriate) to track progress on action points agreed.

3. Timing of DPG IT meetings

The timing of DPG IT meetings is determined by the pace of development in the sector. The initial frequency of meetings is once every quarter.

In addition, Costech, as chair of the joint DPG-Government sector working group, will call meetings of that group as agreed within that context.

The co-chairs can also call for meetings ad hoc or in preparation for a joint sector working group meeting, as determined by the need.